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on June 16, 2003

Kathy E. Raymond  
Kathy E. Raymond

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant :	John E. Peterson, et al.	Docket No. :	IL-10786
Serial No. :	09/916,847	Art Unit :	1731
Filed :	07/26/2001	Examiner :	James H. Derrington
For :	REDUCTION OF DAMAGE INITIATION DENSITY IN FUSED SILICA OPTICS VIA UV LASER CONDITIONING		

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In the Office Action mailed May 6, 2003, claims 1 – 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Office Action mailed May 6, 2003 included the statement, "Applicant has not pointed out support in the specification for the amendment 'to reduce damage associated with absorption' (claims 1, 11, and 22) as a function of the instant method."

Applicants will show that the term, “to reduce damage associated with absorption,” is supported by the original specification. The original specification introduces the term by stating “In the present invention, laser damage concerns are entirely dominated by the former type of laser damage, namely absorption.” The original specification goes on to provide examples that incorporate the term.